

Introduced Version

**HOUSE CONCURRENT  
RESOLUTION No. \_\_\_\_\_**

**DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION**

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Department of Local Government Finance to delay approving tax rates for all units in Porter County until March 15, 2002.

**Ayres, Cheney, Brown C, Kuzman,  
Budak**

\_\_\_\_\_, read first time and referred to Committee on

20021455

2002

HC 1029/DI 84+



## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION urging the Department of Local Government Finance to delay approving tax rates for all units in Porter County until March 15, 2002.

*Whereas, Indiana law provides that the Department of Local Government Finance is responsible for certifying tax rates, levies and budgets for all local units of government;*

*Whereas, IC 6-1.1-17-16 provides that the DLGF is to certify all rates and approve all budgets by February 15 of each year for taxes payable in the following year;*

*Whereas, Those budgets are supported by the payment of real and personal property taxes by individual taxpayers within the respective taxing districts;*

*Whereas, Porter County is currently suffering a severe financial crisis because its largest taxpayer, Bethlehem Steel Corporation, declared bankruptcy on October 15, 2001, failed to make its November 2001 property tax payments and is projected not to make any property tax payments in 2002, thus causing the County a deficit of approximately \$31,000,000;*

*Whereas, There have been several legislative proposals to deal with the revenue shortfall in Porter County, but there can be no projections made as to whether any of these proposals will pass both houses by February 15;*

*Whereas, The Second Regular Session of the Indiana*



*General Assembly is not scheduled to conclude before March 15, 2002; thus legislative action involving Porter County may be taken up until that date;*

*Whereas, The statute is silent regarding possible ramifications of the DLGF not certifying a tax rate for Porter County by February 15;*

*Whereas, Any legislation which passes between February 15 and March 15 might impact the tax rates and budgets in Porter County independent of action taken by the DLGF;*

*Whereas, The current financial crisis facing Porter County as the result of the Bethlehem Steel bankruptcy is of an extraordinary nature which requires creative assistance from the State;*

*Whereas, The State's delay in certifying tax rates and budgets for Porter County will allow additional time which could result in the passage of legislation which would provide meaningful financial assistance to Porter County;*

*Whereas, This request is of a non-binding nature; and*

*Whereas, The immediate critical financial crisis facing Porter County calls for this action; Therefore,*

*Be it resolved by the House of Representatives  
of the General Assembly of the State of Indiana,  
the Senate concurring:*

1        *SECTION 1. That the Department of Local Government*  
2        *Finance is hereby requested to delay certification of tax rates*  
3        *and budgets for Porter County until March 15, 2002.*

4        *SECTION 2. That the Principal Clerk of the House of*  
5        *Representatives is directed to transmit a copy of this*  
6        *Resolution to the Department of Local Government Finance*  
7        *and all taxing units of Porter County.*





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